

FOIAb3b

Seeks Unity - Independently

Invasion Leader

Splits With Exiles

By AL BURT

Herald Latin America Editor

Manuel Artime, Cuban leader

of the Cuban invaders

Wednesday revealed plans ap-

parently designed to make him

an independent political power

among the exiles.

Artime announced that the

invaders, known as Brigade

2506, will be invited to join the

U.S. Army.

But he said he will remain

here and work independently

for exile unity.

The U.S. move to recruit

the invaders into the Army

seems to be a Washington pol-

icy decision to forestall forma-

tion of the invaders as a new

political unit.

The brigade was the military

arm of the Cuban Revolution.

ago, Council of the MRR, was

designed to pull exile groups

into one affiliated body. It has

U.S. support.

The council has urged all

members to join the Army.

Artime's decision positions

him now as independent of the

council and thus of the brigade.

Dr. Jose Miró Cardona, head

of the council, declined com-

ment on Artime's statements.

Artime, 23, personable, artic-

ulate, forceful and sometimes

accused of being overly ambi-

tious, before the invasion was

leader of the Movement for

Revolutionary Reform and as

such had a seat on the council.

During his 20 months in prison,

the MRR replaced him.

Back in Miami, he did not

again become the MRR rep-

resentative on the council.

Artime denied that he is

forming a new group. "I pro-

pose only the understanding of

all Cubans, not the creation of

a political group."

But he added: "I would be

glad to give up my member-

ship in the MRR if all the

groups reach an understand-

ing."

He did not feel the new U.S.

office to coordinate Cuban af-

airs just opened here would

affect his plans. "We Cubans

should set our own strategy,"

he said. "We should not de-

pend on any office.

"I will see all the groups in

town to have them try to reach

an understanding. We have to

do something to pressure for

international happenings."

CPYRGHT

CPYRGHT